

## 2017 Nomination

Please print clearly or type in the spaces below.



### Category (choose only one)

- Arts in the Community
- Community Activist
- Education In the Community
- Youth Activist
- Lifetime Achievement

### Individual Nominee

Name: Dr. Irene Porcarello \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: 832-282-5840 \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone: 713-718-7020 \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: 6815 Rustic Ave, Learning Hub, Building D. \_\_\_\_\_  
City: Houston \_\_\_\_\_ State: TX \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: 77087 \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: irene.porcarello@hccs.edu \_\_\_\_\_

### Nominator

Name: Minerva Perez \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: 281-773-7002 \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone: same \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: 5826 New Territory Blvd., Suite 617 \_\_\_\_\_  
City: Sugar Land \_\_\_\_\_ State: TX \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: 77479 \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: minerva@minervaperezmedia.com \_\_\_\_\_

### **Submit via U.S. Mail or email the completed**

- Nomination form (mandatory)
- Narrative statement or Letter of Recommendation (mandatory)
- Resume/Bio (mandatory)
- Other Supporting materials

**All mandatory materials must be submitted, to be considered.**

### **E-mail questions to:**

[Jackie.schuessler-kimsey@houstontx.gov](mailto:Jackie.schuessler-kimsey@houstontx.gov)

### **Mail to:**

City of Houston  
Attn: Jackie Schuessler-Kimsey (MHHA)  
901 Bagby, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

**Deadline:** Postmarked by July 28, 2017

### **Or complete online at:**

<http://www.houstontx.gov/specialevents/hispanicheritage.html>



July 18, 2017

To The Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award Committee:

About DR. IRENE PORCARELLO

For decades, Dr. Irene Porcarello has been a "titan of education," a leader with passion and personal vision about the need for higher education for all. A child of migrant workers from Lockhart, TX., she was born in Houston where her ambitions were to help the people of her community: Magnolia Park and to go to college. She succeeded on both counts.

Since a young age and to the present, she helped support or volunteered for every local and neighborhood Hispanic organization that emerged from her Magnolia Park: the Milby High School Alumni Association; the League of United Latin American Citizens; the Magnolia Park Seniors Organization and countless others.

When not leading the Houston Community College Southeast campus, which she had done tenaciously for many years, she's out visiting with young people and pointing them in the direction of education over all. A lot of this is done on her own time. As President of the Southeast campus, Dr. Porcarello is propping up young Latinos to reach unimaginable heights. She knows first-hand the struggle they face, as she, too, faced those challenges growing up poor in Houston's first barrio of Magnolia Park.

She continues, tirelessly, to advocate for the betterment and education of her Hispanic community. Please consider DR. IRENE PORCARELLO for the Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award for 2017.

Respectfully,

Minerva Pérez



## **Dr. Irene M. Porcarello**

### **Biography**

Irene Porcarello, the daughter of migrant workers, was born in Houston, Texas. Her family's story dates back to the early 1900s, when her parents decided to move from Lockhart, Texas to Houston, Texas, Magnolia Park. From early childhood, Irene set her aspirations and goals to pursue a college education. Coming from an impoverished background, Irene realized that a solid education would help open the doors to success and provide lifetime career opportunities.

In 1972, Irene earned her Bachelor's Degree in English from the University of Houston. During the early 1970s, she also worked at the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA) helping to create the George I. Sanchez High School. Today, the school educates over 700 students on a yearly basis, with a primary focus to serve at-risk students that have not been able to succeed in a traditional high school environment.

In 1975, Irene obtained her Master's Degree in Social Work specializing in community planning and organizing. Shortly thereafter, she managed the Youth and Adult Program at Ripley House under the helm of Felix Fraga, a distinguished and notable community leader. With an increasing desire to bring necessary change to the Houston inner-city neighborhoods, Irene continued with her educational endeavor. In 1978, Irene enrolled at the University of Houston's Doctoral Program in Education Administration in Higher Education. While at the university, she administered the GED Migrant Program funded by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

After working as the Director of the Child Development Center, Irene joined the Houston Community College System (HCCS) in the capacity of Grant Specialist in 1982. Within a

year, Irene was promoted to Campus Director. While serving in the Campus Director role, she discovered her talent in technical writing. For the next 15 years, Irene engaged in grant writing and as a result, she was responsible for receiving more than \$2 million in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The primary goal of the DOE grant awards was to provide scholarship opportunities for underrepresented and underserved students and women seeking careers in math, science, computer science, and engineering.

In addition, she also administered the DOE summer internship programs at UC Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, and Sandi Labs. The students selected for the summer bridge program were assigned to scientists and inventors who served as mentors. In the summer of 1989, Irene completed a summer internship at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab.

While continuing her career at HCC, Irene held the position of Dean of Student Development from 1992 - 2001 for three campuses. In this role, she was able to continue submitting successful grant proposals to the U.S. Department of Energy. She was invited by DOE to present at the 1996 World Women's Conference held in Beijing, China.

From 2001 - 2005, Irene functioned in the roles of Deputy to the Chancellor and Interim Vice Chancellor for Institutional Development. In that period, she worked on the implementation of a student success model for first year students thus improving student retention. Then, in 2005, Irene obtained the position of Vice Chancellor of Student Success. In 2008, she was extended an invitation by the Chancellor to serve as the Interim President at the HCC Southeast College, with the condition that she complete her Doctorate Degree. Six months later, Irene was appointed to a permanent position as President. Today, she continues to serve in this capacity. In May 2010, she achieved a major milestone by obtaining her Doctorate Degree from Sam Houston State University, Educational Leadership and Counseling Program. Irene's dissertation is entitled "An Examination of the Administrator Leadership Styles and Student Success of First Time in College Hispanic Students Enrolled in Community Colleges."

One of her most recent accomplishments is being honored in 2008 by the National Women of Achievement Organization with a Profile of Prominence award. Additionally, she also published "Conflict Management Challenges at Integrity Community College" in the 2008 National Council of Professors of Educational Administration (NCPEA) CONNEXIONS. In 2009, Irene was honored by being named Hispanic Woman of the Year by Sucesos Magazine. In 2007 and 2006, she was nominated by the Community College Futures Assembly Conference held in Orlando, Florida on outstanding and innovative programs or practices on HCC Student Online Program. Aside from her extensive list of accomplishments, Irene is grateful for the opportunities that the Houston Community College has granted her in holding numerous leadership positions. Because of her perseverance, patience, and commitment, she has been able to work successfully with the faculty and staff to help transform the Southeast College to serve as a beacon of hope for students, parents, families and community leaders.

More importantly, she is the mother of two daughters, who stood by her side, while still aspiring and achieving highly successful goals. As an educator and community leader, Irene Porcarello believes that it is important for parents to become fully engaged and involved in their children's education. She is a firm believer that parents should participate in the decision-making process that relates to the education of their children to ensure their success.

## Schuessler-Kimsey, Jackie - MYR

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**From:** Minerva Perez <minerva@minervaperezmedia.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2017 3:27 PM  
**To:** Schuessler-Kimsey, Jackie - MYR  
**Cc:** yoalvarado@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Dr. Porcarello - Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award Nomination  
**Attachments:** About Dr. Porcarello.doc; DrPorcarello BIO.docx; 2017-MHHA-Application.doc

Please consider: Dr. Irene Porcarello - see attached.

Minerva